

August 1713

INSTRUCTIONS  
TO  
FREEHOLDERS:

Blut. Pamphlet vol 86

Drawn from Her Majesty's  
Most Gracious SPEECH,  
from the THRONE.

On Thursday the 16th of July 1703,

To Both HOUSES of  
PARLIAMENT.

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*O Regina, novam tibi condere Jupiter urbem  
Iustitiâque dedit Gentem franare Superbam.*

Virgil

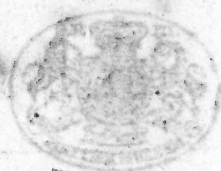
O Queen, by Thee new Settlements advance:  
In Trade, as well as War, too hard for *France*.

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L O N D O N:

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# INSTRUCTIONS TO FREEHOLDERS:

Drawn from Her M—y's

Most Gracious Speech, &c.



AM not without Apprehensions, that som People will be apt to find Fault with my Title, as if I intended thereby to Insinuate, That Her M—y had it in Her Thoughts to Influence the approaching Elections for Members to serve in

Parliament, from the Throne. But such Conjectures have as little Grounds, in relation to me, as I may be said to encourage them, in relation to my Sovereign; since it is well known those Elections are to be Free, and if *no Lord of Parliament*, as the Opening of every Sessions tells us, is to concern

himself with them; it is most certain no Prince, especially one that is possess'd of the Hearts of Her People, but will leave them to their own Choice upon these Occasions.

However, since the *Examiner*, amidst all his pretended Zeal for the *Church* and *State*, in his *Observations on Her M—y's Speech*, seems rather to aim at the Continuance of our Party-Feuds, than the Composure of those Heats and Divisions that Fret and Decay the *Body-Politick*, and may one Day terminate in the Ruin of the *Constitution*; and would force-strain'd Constructions upon Words they can never fall under, I shall endeavour to set People right in the Judgment of Designs that are not to be canvass'd and explain'd by every faucy *Pretender*.

In doing this, I shall have an Eye to every Paragraph in its proper Order, and omit no Beauty that renders each Period deserving of the Royal Personage that pronounced it; which cannot be done but by reciting the Whole, and annexing such Remarks to it, as may silence this or that Suggestion, and give it its true and genuine Explanation.

There is no one but knows how well the present Parliament has deserv'd of Her M—y, what Mismanagements found out; what Wonders effected; and what Machinations defeated, by an Industry Superiour to that of Her Enemies, who had form'd Cabals against a P E A C E that has brought such Glory and Advantage to the *British* Name and Nation, as neither the One or the Other were entitl'd to in any former Age.

We have had our *Edwards* and our *Henrys* and a Female Reign has distinguish'd the shining Character of the Great *Elizabeth*. But all these, even  
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the Glorious *Nassau*, are lost and swallow'd up in the surprizing Events that have blest'd the Administration of the most Victorious *ANNE*, and given Success to the Consultations of our present Sovereign. Her Generals, Her Ministry, and Her Senates have vied with each other in their Achievements for the Publick Good; and if the first have spread the Terror of Her Arms to the utmost Confines of the Earth, the last have Emblazon'd Her Fame to Cultivate the Arts of *Peace*, now our Swords are happily turn'd into Plough-Shares, and our Spears into Pruning-Hooks.

In Gratitude, therefore, to the Loyal Patriots, who have Lent Her M——y their Generous Assistance to accomplish this Great Work, and in Commemoration of the Means that have brought it to pass, the Queen signifies to Both Houses of Parliament, the Sense She has of their Zeal and Affection; their Duty, and Regard for Her's and the Nation's Honour in the following Words:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

**I** Come now to put an End to this Session with great Satisfaction, and to return You all my hearty Thanks for the good Service You have done to the Publick.

Which, if I may presume to be Her M——y's Interpreter, imports, ' That as She met Both Houses ' with great Satisfaction at the Opening of the ' Session, so She dismisses them with the same ' Pleasure of Mind at its rising, and with a grateful Remembrance of those Benefits which the ' Publick enjoys from their Wise and approved ' Consultations. How, then, could the *Examiner*, for *Monday* the 20th of *July*, insinuate, That Her  
M——y

M—y was Dissatisfy'd, by Her *bearing with the Willful Prejudices of some; and the unhappy Mistakes of others.* Or, how is it in the Power of Imagination to suppose, She should *Thank them for doing good Service to the Publick,* if She had at Heart any Disservice they had done? I am apt to think from hence, that either this Hireling is not so much in the Secret as he gives out he is, or that those who Pay him for his Weekly Labours have but little Insight into the Nature of Good Services. But to proceed to the next Paragraph of the Speech:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

*I must particularly Thank You for the Supplies you have now given; I will take Care to apply them as far as they will reach, to satisfy the Services You have Voted.*

The Members of the *House of Commons* are the Representatives of the Freeholders, and others that have Votes for the Choice of them, as those belonging to the *House of Peers* constitute another Estate in Parliament; wherefore, as it is wholly lodg'd in them to bring in Bills for Subsidies, tho' it belongs also to the Lords to give their Concurrence to them; so the Queen, having thank'd Both Estates for their mutual Care of the Publick, applies Herself now in particular to *One* with thankful Acknowledgments of the Sums they have given Her, during the Course of this Session, and which, without all manner of Question, will be as faithfully apply'd to the Appointments they have been set apart for, as they were in the two last: But as this cannot be done no farther than the *Supplies will reach,* its the Business of the New Parliament,

liament, if they should fall short to make them Good.

*I hope at the next Meeting the Affair of Commerce will be so well understood, that the Advantageous Conditions I have obtain'd from France, will be made effectual for the Benefit of our Trade.*

Which infers, ' That, in Her M——y's Opinion, ' the Articles of Trade and Commerce with France, ' have not been rightly understood; and that such ' of Her Subjects as have been Importunate with ' their Clamours against those Two that stood in ' need of a Bill to render them more Effectual, ' were not appriz'd of the Advantages that must ' necessarily flow from them: Not that the Queen, as those that bear no good Will to Her Administration give out, finds Fault with the Majority of the House for flinging Out the Bill, which had not been done, but by the Means of some Eminent Deserters; She but *Hopes* the Fruits of all Her Labour and Industry for the Benefit of Her People will not be lost by future Mistakes, and that the Recess which is now given them in their respective Countries will give such as are chosen again sufficient Time for that Consideration which the multiplicity of other Affairs would not permit them, during their Residence here. Which Sentiments of Goodness are shewn in the next Gracious Paragraph.

*I cannot part with so Good and Loyal a House of Commons, without expressing how sensible I am of the Affection, Zeal, and Duty with which you have behaved Your selves, and I think my self therefore obliged to take Notice of those remarkable Services you have performed.*

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Her M——y has a Heart too susceptible of Impressions from good Services, not to give Encouragement to their Imitation, and therefore shews Her Unwillingness, or rather Inability to send these Gentlemen that have deserv'd so much of Her into their respective Countries with no other Tokens of Acknowledgment, than the Medals She order'd them to be presented with. *She cannot part with so Good and Loyal a House of Commons.* Oh the boundless Excess of Royal Condescension! She cannot permit them to retire to their several Homes without plentiful Effusions of that Sense She entertains of their *Affection, Zeal, and Duty*; without evincing to the World the many *remarkable Things* they have *perform'd*; and without inspiring them with fresh Ardor, to go on with the Pursuit of them; unless their Country shews less grateful than their Queen, and Chuses others to Represent them: For it is next to an Impossibility for any generous Soul not to give into immediate Resolutions of entire Resignation to Her Will and Pleasure, at the Sound of such Mellifluous and Enchanting Commendations.

*At Your first Meeting You found a Method, without Charg: to my People, to ease them of the heavy Load of more than Nine Millions, and the Way of doing it may bring Advantage to the Nation.*

Here the Royal Oratory is taken up in Particularizing some distinct Acts of Justice, Prudence and Precaution, and Instances in their erecting a *South-Sea-Company*, and the Steps that were taken in their first Session, to discharge so immense a Debt by that happy Expedient. She thinks it useless to enumerate the vast Success of their Reports and Representations

Representations by which the Eyes of the Nation have been open'd, and the People let into the Knowledge of the *Plunderers* of the Publick Treasure: She does not dwell upon the Abuses found out in the several Offices, and the Male-Practices that were detected, in almost every Branch of the Administration, when under the Care of some late Officers; but offers only this one Act of a Whole Session to their View, that from thence Her faithful *Commons* may judge of Her Sentiments of the rest. Not that She Flatters them with Visionary Schemes from thence, or excites their Astonishment, with Mountains of Gold, but says it *may bring Advantage to the Nation*; that is, in all Humane probability, without some unforeseen Accidents, which neither the Provident Care of a Prince, nor the Wisdom of Parliament, can possibly prevent; since there is no Fence against Casualties, and the best Concerted Projects, as that against *Quebec*, may be attended with the worst of Disasters. However, it rests upon us to be *easy*, since 'tis Her M——y's sole Endeavour to make us so; and exert our utmost Strength to let those at the Helm of Government see, that while they put us in a Capacity of being discharg'd from *Incumbrances*, we do not add to the Weight that lays upon their Shoulders, by putting Difficulties in their Way to *Incumber* them. A Thing they can never be guilty of, themselves.

*In this Session You have enabled me to be just in Paying the Debts due to my Servants.*

Her M——y descends now from Acknowledgments of their Payment of *National Debts* to give Testimonies of Her Obligations to them for *enabling*

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*bling* Her to discharge Her own Private Engagements; from which She could not Extricate Herself without an Act of Parliament, thro' the Insatiate Avarice of the late Ministry, and their Depredations on the Revenue belonging to the Civil, List, as well as that appertaining to other Establishments. *She could not be just without their Assistance.* What a dreadful sound must this have in an Ear that's truly English? What an Abhorrence must it stamp upon every Soul, of the Hard and Unprecedented Treatment She has met with, when it is told among the Multitude, that the *Caterpillars of State*, just mention'd, left injur'd M—y not wherewithal to defray the Charges of Her Family, even when She generously, and unapplied to, Contributed 100000 *l. per Annum* out of the Money that was given by Her Parliament for that Use, towards the Maintainance of the War? Most assuredly, all Freeholders, and others that have Votes, must love the *Peace* the better for it, and those that promoted it, to the Intent that so good a Queen might be releas'd from so heavy a Burthen.

*And as You furnished Supplies for carrying on the War, so You have strengthen'd my Hands in obtaining a Peace.*

The *Supplies* Her Majesty is pleas'd to take Notice of in all the Three Sessions of Parliament, amounts to near Twenty Millions sterling; a Sum sufficient to have beaten the *French King* out of *Paris*, and put us in Possession of the Enemy's Country, had not the Duke of *Marlborough*, who was General for the first Year, by losing his Time about *Pidgeon-Holes*, and Sieges of *Fortify'd Places*, wherein

wherein Her M——y's Subjects were Knock'd on the Head to gain Towns for the *Dutch* to Garrison, made it necessary to give into Schemes of Peace, and hearken to Terms of Accommodation, by which the New G———'s Hands were *tyed up*, the next Summer, from entering upon Action, tho' the Queen's were *strengthen'd*, by good Husbandry, and the Liberality of Her faithful Commons, to enter upon, Negotiate, and Perfect a Peace; which is happily accomplish'd, to the Encrease of our Dominions, and Encouragement of Commerce, that otherwise could not have been carried on with *France* and *Spain*.

*Thus You have shewn Your selves the true Representatives of my Loyal Commons, by the just Regard You have pay'd to the Good of Your Country, and My Honour. These Proceedings will, I doubt not, preserve the Memory of this Parliament to Posterity.*

Hear, O ye *Freeholders*, and give Ear, O ye *Aldermen*, *Burgesses*, and *Jurats*! Let him that pays Scot and Lot in any *Borough*, and is entitled to Vote in any Corporation, Congratulate himself upon the Honour that is done him by the most exalted M——y, and be thankful for the Condescension of a Queen, among whose other Acts of Munificence is the Gift of Peace to *Europe*. The true Representatives of my **LOTAL PEOPLE**, i. e. those who Personate the renown'd Qualities of you that Chose them, and Speak the very Sentiments of Duty and Obedience of you that Deputed them in your stead, to have Regard for the Good of your Country, and your Queen's Honour, and transmit your Fame to Posterity, by the Means

of Actions that preserve the Memory of your own.

*Fortunati ambo, siquid mea Carmina possunt,  
Nulla Dies unquam memores vos Eximet Ævo,  
Dum Domus Æneæ Capitoli immobile Saxum,  
Accolet, Imperiumque Pater Romanus habebit.*

Virg. Æn. IX.

Thus Paraphras'd:

*Most happy Both, and if my Verse can raise  
Your Fame, Immortal as you'll make my Lays,  
No Day shall blot your dear Remembrance from  
The List of Time, and Ages yet to come:  
Whilst the Stuartian House it self supplies  
Britain with Heroes, and with Gods the Skies;  
Whilst Anna's Successors their Right obtain,  
From her Decease to date their Glorious Reign.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

*At my coming to the Crown I found a War prepar'd  
for me. God has bless'd my Arms with many Victories,  
and at last has enabled me to make them useful by a  
Safe and Honourable Peace.*

Her M—y's Accession to the Throne was usher'd in with Preparations for a War; that was not of Her own seeking, but left Her as a Legacy by Her Predecessor. She would have had no Thoughts of Embarrassing Her People with the Miseries or Expences of it, had not She found Herself under a Necessity of doing it, by Vertue of Alliances, and other Considerations which are express'd in Her Declaration of War, set forth the  
4th

4th of May 1702. wherein, amongst other Reasons, She was pleas'd to incert the following Particular.

' The *French* King has not only proceeded to farther Violence, but has added thereunto a great Affront and Indignity to Us and our Kingdoms, in taking upon him to declare the Pretended Prince of *Wales*, King of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*; and has also Influenced *Spain* to concur in the same Affront and Indignity, as well as in other Oppressions. Wherefore we find our selves oblig'd, for maintaining the Publick Faith; for Vindication of the Honour of our Crown, and to prevent the Mischiefs which all *Europe* is threatned with, to declare War, &c. See the Declaration.

Now, that here were Grounds, not only for the Late King's making Preparations for this War, but the Queen's entrance into it when these Preparations were made, is most certain, as it is also, that the Victories of Her M——y's Arms obtain'd, during the Course of it, would have been of no Use to us, but to the Generals, that obtain'd them, without a *Safe and Honourable Peace*, which appears by the Queen's having gain'd the Ends which induced Her to enter into the War. For if the *French* King's Owning and Receiving the pretended Prince of *Wales*, as King of *England*, &c. was a just Ground of the War; his Revoking that Acknowledgement; Disowning him as such; Recognizing Her M——y's Rightful and Lawful Title to the Crown, and Securing as much as could be required of him that Title, and Her M——y's quiet Possession thereof, with that of Her M——y's Protestant Successors in the *Hanover* Line, is as just a Consideration for making the Peace; since the Repose of *Europe* is, in a great part, and will be fully obtain'd by the Treaty, and the Queen's Honour

our is sufficiently repair'd, and the Affront given amply made amends for, by the Acquisition of large Tracts of Land, and other Concessions.

*I heartily Thank You for the Assistance You have given me therein, and I promise my self that, with Your Concurrence, it will be lasting.*

Here the Queen is graciously pleas'd to express Her Gratitude to Both Houses for the Helps they gave Her, not only in carrying on the War, but in advancing and forwarding the Peace. Their Votes, and Resolutions, and Addresses to Her are fully answer'd in the Conclusion of it, by the Demolition of *Dunkirk, &c.* and they have nothing to do after they have concurr'd in making it, but so to behave themselves, that it may be Lasting, and not, like other Treaties with the same Nation, be of short continuance. Rules for which are graciously laid down in the following Paragraph:

*To this end I recommend it to You all, to make My Subjects truly sensible what they gain by the Peace, and that You will endeavour to dissipate those Groundless Jealousies which have been so industriously fomented amongst us; that our unhappy Divisions may not weaken, and in some sort, endanger the Advantages I have obtain'd for my Kingdoms.*

Very little Difficulties will attend such a Work as this, and the Articles of Peace themselves are sufficient Instructions for this Purpose. The Queen, as well She may, acquiesces under the Conditions of it, and has it at Heart, that Her Subjects may do so too; She cannot be easie while they discover any Symptoms of Uneasiness: And therefore,

fore, the best Way for each Member to come up to the Tenour of this Gracious Recommendation, is to tell the People who made Choice of them, That the Queen's Rightful, and Lawful Title is own'd by *France* and *Spain*; the Protestant Succession recognized; the *Pretender* rejected and banished; and the Union of the Kingdoms, just mention'd, render'd impracticable; that *Dunkirk* is to be dismantled and demolish'd at the *French* King's own Expence; that *Gibraltar*, *Port Mahone*, *Ghent*, *Bruges*, and *Newport*, are to remain in our Hands; that the Bay and Streights of *Hudson* are to be deliver'd up to us, for our perpetual Use, with Costs and Damages for the Losses our Merchants have receiv'd there, during the War, as what they have sustain'd in the Island of *Mountserat*; that the Island of *St. Christophers* is, from henceforth, to be possess'd alone by *British* Subjects, as well as all *Nova-Scotia* with its antient Bondaries, with the City of *Port-Royal*, now call'd *Annapolis-Royal*; that the Island of *Newfoundland* is, henceforth, to belong to *Britain*; and the Town of *Placentia* and Fortress, with other Places in the Possession of the *French*, to be given up to us for the same Intent, after a limited Time; that the *Assiento* Trade is to be ours for Thirty Years; and that we are to be allow'd Priviledges, exclusive of all others, in our Commerce with the *Spanish West-Indies*. And if all these Advantages will not cure them of their groundless Jealousies, *Hellebore* is the next Experiment they should have recourse to, for remedying the Distempers which they Labour under: For none but Mad-men will refuse to give Ear to such convincing Demonstrations, or be drawn aside from the Voice of Truth and Reason by a parcel

parcel of Ignorant *Wooll-Combers*, and other Handicraftsmen, that do not understand their own Interest.

*There are some (very few I hope) who will never be satisfy'd with any Government: It is necessary, therefore, that You shew Your Love to Your Country, by exerting Your selves to obviate the Malice of the Ill-minded, and toundeceive the Deluded.*

Those must be *Fifth-Monarchy-Men* indeed, and nothing short of *Venner*, and his Discontented, Tribe, that cannot be easie under so mild an Administration as Her M—y's: 'Tis manifest, That what Interpretation soever is fix'd upon this Period, they cannot be *W—s*: that here meant, because the Queen says, *There are very few who will never be satisfy'd with any Government*; and they are too numerous to make the Application good, in relation to them. Besides, they are upon all Accounts ready to signalize their Love to their Country, in standing up for the Liberties of it; in Supporting the Protestant Succession, as by Law establish'd; in Maintaining the Act of Indulgence to their *Dissenting-Brethren*; (for a *W—g* and a *Dissenter* are two different Species) and in *obviating the Malice of the Ill-minded, and in undeceiving the Deluded*, either in Matters of State or Trade, or any other Concern, whereby the People may be liable to be impos'd upon: So that *Jacobites*, *Atheists*, and those who are tainted with *Hereditary Disloyalty* to the Crown, may seem rather to be pointed at in this Character, than Men who put in Practice the Doctrines they make Profession of, and are not only call'd, *Members of the Church of England*, but Daily frequent it.

*Nothing*

*Nothing can establish Peace at Home; nothing can recover the Disorders that have happen'd, during so long a War, but a steady adhering to the Constitution in Church and State.*

*The Constitution of the Church, is the Government of it, next under God, by the Queen, as Supreme; the Bishops, as set over it by Her Appointment, and the Divine Permission, and by others of the Clergy, that are to follow the Direction of the Canons which have been Compiled for that Use; and that Person who subscribes the Thirty Nine Articles, and holds the Doctrine therein contain'd, is a true Son of it. The Constitution in the State, is this: The Government is mix'd, and consists of Three Estates, (some say Four) *Queen, Lords, and Commons*, tho' the Queen is Independent of the rest, and is entitl'd a *Monarch*, at the same time as She cannot make Laws without them, or alter any one already made; and he that takes the Oath of Allegiance to Her Majesty, Abjures the *Pretender*, and conforms in all other Points that are required of a good Subject, is a Member qualify'd for any Office in the State. Now, That you can chuse none but Men endued with both these Qualifications for your Representatives, appears from several Acts of Parliament: Therefore it rests upon you, to distinguish whether he that is a Fomenter of Divisions can Establish Peace; or he that is a Reconciller of Differences? Or he that would set the Nation in a Flame, fittest to Recover it from the Disorder the War has caus'd, or he that would make other Mens Minds as Quiet as his own?*

*Such as are true to these Principles are only to be rely'd on ; and as they have the best Title to my Favour ; so may you depend upon my having no Interest nor Aim, but Your Advantage, and the Securing of our Religion and Liberty.*

Here the Queen declares that the *Steady Adherers to the Constitution in Church and State* are only to be rely'd on and have the best Title to Her Favour : An Assurance you all ought to rest satisfy'd with, since *Tricksters, Timeservers, and Men of Occasional Principles* ought not to have any Confidence put in them ; but are excluded from Her Majesty's Favour, and should be from your Votes. Wherefore, since Her Majesty has no Interest nor Aim, but the Advantage of her People, it concerns you likewise, in Return to these Gracious Expressions, next to Her Honour, to Consult the Advantage that is here said to be aim'd at by the Best of Queens, who places it on the Security of our *Religion and Liberty*. Neither of which can be Consulted, without an Eye to such Gentlemen as have at Heart the most Expeditions and Gainful Consumption of the Manufactures of the Nation, the Danger that its possible may arise to our *Holy Religion* from the Vicinity of the *Pretender*, and the Numbers of Disaffected Persons that appear openly ; and with Impunity in his Interest ; and bear a true Value for the *Old English Liberty*, and the Right the *Legislature* of the Realm has, to enquire into Abuses and Mismanagements that may creep, or have insinuated themselves into the *Administration*

*I hope for the Quiet of these Nations, and the Universal Good, that I shall next Winter meet my Parliament, resolved to Act upon the same Principles, with*  
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*the same Prudence, and with such Vigour as may enable me to support the Liberties of Europe Abroad, and reduce the Spirit of Faction at Home.*

Many, many Winters may Her Majesty meet Her Loyal and Affectionate Parliaments; many, may both She and they consult the Quiet of these Nations, and the Universal Good: And when a New Parliament shall sit, may they give Ear to the Remonstrances and Desires of their Electors, as this has done. That if it shall fall into any Debate, Whether the Interest of their own, or that of another Country is to be preferr'd, they may act upon the same Principles, and with the same Prudence as their Predecessors. But as these Blessings are not to be obtain'd without Endeavours to draw them down upon us, and *Hopes* and *Wishes* are not of themselves sufficient to bring about the Consumption of our Home Manufactures, which is the chief Thing to be consider'd in Matters of Trade, and what will most effectually enrich these Kingdoms, so it lies in the Breasts of you that are *Freeholders* and *Electors* of Members to sit in Parliament, to behave your selves in such a manner, that Posterity may not reproach you for Chusing Representatives that will give up those Advantages to Foreigners which should of right descend to them.

In Order to this, now it is not in your Power to Elect very many Men of approv'd Characters and of try'd Experience in Matters of Trade, who are disabled by the *Qualification-Act* (tho' capable of Buying most of their Estates that promoted that Bill) it highly concerns you to chuse such of them as are yet permitted to do Honour to your Country, and who are best able to distinguish

what is Hurtful or Beneficial to Commerce in our Intercourse with other Nations. The Advantage of your respective Counties, Cities, and Boroughs is what you are to have most at Heart, and since by the Scituation of this Island we cannot want Opportunities of Exporting the Produce of it, which, in several of its valuable Branches, is much coveted, and as much wanted by other Nations, you are to consider in which of them it is most likely to come to the best Market, and from whence it will bring you the most profitable Returns. This is much better than Complimenting a *New Friend* to the Detriment of an *Old Ally*, more especially if such an Act of Generosity must undoubtedly be of ill Consequence to our selves. For the Gratification of our *Taste*, howsoever to be preferr'd in some Cases, is always to give Place to the Increase of *Publick Advantages*, and tho' Delicious *Viands* and Racy *Wines* may be agreeable to the Palat, and tempt us to the Possession of them, yet if these *Viands* and *Wines* are no otherwise to be purchas'd than at a prodigious Expence, no less than the Loss of many Hundred Thousand Pounds to One's Native Country, who, that is not deprived of all other Senses but that of *Taste*, would not reject them with Scorn and Indignation? Who would give into Compliances that, instead of adding to the Wealth of the Nation, and the Queen's Revenue, would serve to diminish and take from them?

I speak not this, but for the Good of both; for if it can be made appear, which I very much doubt, notwithstanding all the Assurances which the Author of the *Mercator* has given us, that the *French Trade* will be better to us than that of *Portugal*. I shall think it the Duty of every  
*British*

*British* Subject to do, what in him lies to forward and promote: the former But if it shall be prov'd to a Demonstration, that the Latter will be most Beneficial, then my Voice shall be given on the side of it. *Utrum horum?* Is the Matter in Debate. Which of these will contribute most to the Consumption of our Home Manufactures? I say, which *will*, because which *has* is out of the Question. For tho' the *Custom-House* Books tell us, that *France* has taken so many Bales of Goods off from our Hands before the War, and *Portugal* so many during the continuance of it, it does not follow from thence that either of them *must* keep up to their wonted Number, now it is ended.

Arts and Sciences make great Improvements by the Assistance of Time, and the Wants of a Nation are very urgent Solicitors of the People's Industry. Now, if Report speaks Truth, the Necessities of *France*, during our open Hostilities with her, have put her upon Expedients to remedy them in such a manner, that their Wrought Woollen-Cloths are arrived at as great a Proficiency as ours: And a certain Merchant has lately Imported some from thence, which, for Quality, Goodness, and Cheapness, exceeds ours; so that if they can under Work us, and do that Work as well, if not better, there is small appearance of their taking many Exports of that Nature from us, since they would thereby cease giving Employment to their own Natives. But *Portugal* has done nothing like this: no Looms are erected there for making Broad Cloths, Serges, Ratines, &c. and they take off our *Herrings*, *Pilchards*, *Salmon*, Woollen-Manufactures, Leather, and all the Products of *Ireland* in great abundance; at the same time as they furnish us with some Dy-  
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ing Commodities, as well as Wine, and the Traffick with those Parts, has constantly encreas'd every Year, as we have increas'd the demand for their Wines; by which means the Navigation and Seamen of this Kingdom have been greatly encourag'd, especially to the Mediterranean; where, by Acts of Parliament, such Ships as carry out our Manufactures are to have 16 Guns and 32 Men, of which there is now a very great Number. But small Ships with an easie Charge of Men, can fetch Wines from *France*, which will discourage the bringing in other Wines, and have this bad effect, That the greatest part of those Ships must lie and Rot, or come Home dead freighted. The Charge whereof will fall on those *British* Commodities they carry out; which rendring them dear, will lessen their Exportation, as will also the Incapacity of the *Portuguese* to pay for them. It will be the same with the *Spaniards* and *Italians*: For no Nation (no not the first of these with all their Mines) can take off the Commodities of another Nation, unless they will take the greatest part of theirs.

Besides, as *Portugal* can deal with its Neighbours, the *Spaniards*, for Cloth, &c. and have it, even from *France*, at a much Cheaper Rate, if they must pay us in Money for it, (which is like to be their Case, if the Wine-Trade of *France* is open to us) so will also the *Italians*, whereby we shall lose our Traffick with them for *Raw-Silks* to Employ our poor Industrious *Weavers* of *London*, *Norwich*, *Canterbury*, &c. But it is not only the Trading Interest that seems to be in Danger from our Assenting to the taking off the Duties upon *French* Wines here, whilst that Nation continues their Imports upon our several Manufactures, but  
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the Landed is altogether as much concern'd; for if the One cannot Export their Cloth to wonted Advantage, the Price of the Other's WOOLL must fall of Course, which is a Melancholly Consideration, not only to the Industrious Farmer, but the Fine Gentleman of large Estate, who, perhaps, may reflect on none of these Matters, while he Lolls at Ease in his gilt Coach, and Parad's about the Streets to shew his Equipage, but may find at last, when he shall be forced to contract his Expences, and move within a narrower Sphere, that his falling off from his wonted Grandeur, and his being forced to lay down his Coach and six is wholly owing to his want of Thought that induced him to prefer a Foreign Interest before his own, which puts me in Mind of a Fable in *Æsop*, with which I shall conclude, leaving you that are Electors for Members of Parliament, to make the Application.

' There was a Country Fellow, at Work a  
' sowing his Grounds, and a *Swallow* (being a Bird  
' famous for Providence and Foresight) call'd a  
' Company of Little Birds about Her, and bad  
' them take good Notice what that Fellow was a  
' doing. *You must know* (says the *Swallow*) *that all*  
' *the Fowler's Nets and Snares are Made of Hemp*  
' *or Flax; and that's the Seed that he is now a Sow-*  
' *ing: Pick it up in Time, for Fear of what may come*  
' *on't.* In short they put it off till it took Root;  
' and then again, till it was sprung up into the  
' Blade. Upon this the *Swallow* told them once  
' for all, that it was not yet too late to prevent  
' the Mischief, if they would but bestir themselves,  
' and set heartily about it: But finding that no  
' heed was given to what she said; she e'en bad  
' adieu

' adieu to her Old Companions in the Woods, and  
 ' so betook herself to a City Life, and to the Con-  
 ' versation of Men. This *Flax* and *Hemp* came in  
 ' Time to be Gather'd and Wrought, and it was  
 ' this *Swallow's* Fortune to see several of the very  
 ' same Birds that she had forewarn'd, Taken in  
 ' Nets, made of the same stuff she told them of.  
 ' They came at last to be sensible of the Folly of  
 ' slipping their Opportunity; but they were lost,  
 ' beyond all Redemption, first.

**F I N I S.**